

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-14 RSC-01 ISO-00

CG-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 CEQ-02

COA-02 COME-00 EB-11 EPA-04 IO-14 NSF-04 SCI-06 FEA-02

ACDA-19 AEC-11 AGR-20 DOTE-00 CIEP-03 FMC-04 INT-08

CEA-02 JUSE-00 OMB-01 DRC-01 /293 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4631

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 7879

E O 11652 GDS

TAGS PLOS

SUBJ: PROPOSED INTERIM LEGISLATION ON DEEP SEABED MINING AND 200
MILE FISHERIES ZONE

REF STATE 193107 CARACAS 8544

1. THE PASSAGE OF US LEGISLATION SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL
WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE EFFECTS IN COLOMBIA. IT WOULD, IN ALL PROB-
ABILITY, ENGENDER A REASSESSMENT OF THE GOC'S APPROACH TO LAW
OF THE SEA MATTERS, AN APPROACH THAT, TO DATE, HAS BEEN
MODERATE AND LARGELY DIRECTED TOWARD THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
INTERNATIONAL CONSENSUS. SUCH UNILATERAL ACTION BY THE USG WOULD
ALSO HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON US COLOMBIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

2. DURING THE MONTHS PRECEDING THE CARACAS CONFERENCE, EMB
OFFICERS CONSULTED FREQUENTLY WITH FONOFF OFFICIALS ON VARIOUS
LOS QUESTIONS. THE GOC WAS APPRECIATIVE BOTH OF THE INFO PROVIDED
BY THE DEPT AND OF THE MANIFEST US INTEREST IN CONSULTATION AND
COOPERATION IN AN AREA OF SUBSTANTIAL INTEREST TO COLOMBIA. COLOMBIAN
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LOS DEL MEMBERS HAD, BEFORE DEPARTURE FOR CARACAS, EXPRESSED

SYMPATHY WITH US VIEWPOINTS ON MANY LOS MATTERS AND HAD INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO COOPERATE WITH THE US DEL AT THE CONFERENCE. IF THE GOC WERE NOW, AFTER EXTENSIVE US INITIATED EFFORTS AT CONSULTATION, TO FIND ITSELF FACED WITH UNILATERAL US ACTIONS, THERE WOULD BE DAMAGE, NOT ONLY TO OUR EFFORTS TO ENLIST COLOMBIAN SUPPORT ON LOS MATTERS BUT TO THE OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

3. DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS, FORMER FONMIN VAZQUEZ WORKED DILIGENTLY TO OBTAIN A LATIN AMERICAN CONSENSUS ON A PATRIMONIAL SEA (12/200 MILE) CONCEPT THAT WOULD BOTH PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE LA STATES AND BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE MAJOR MARITIME POWERS. THE PASSAGE OF THE US LEGISLATION IN QUESTION WOULD LEAVE COLOMBIA IN AN EXTREMELY AWKWARD POSITION AND COULD NOT BUT WORK TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE ADVOCATES, IN COLOMBIA AND ELSEWHERE, OF THE MORE EXTREME PROPOSALS ON TERRITORIAL SEA LIMITS. VAKY

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